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## 169 STOLEN FILMS SEIZED IN RAID HERE

First Blow in Nationwide Campaign to Get Million a Year Theft Gang.

### LABORATORY PILFERED

Pathe Exchange Complains of Heavy Losses—Two Arrests, More To-day.

### FEDERAL LAW IS URGED

Plotters Send the Purlined Movies to Mexico, South America and Orient.

Officials of motion picture companies and the police of the West Forty-seventh street station believe that with the arrest last night of two film dealers and the recovery of 169 films valued at \$15,000 a severe blow was dealt the organized groups of thieves who annually get away with nearly \$1,000,000 worth of pictures and who form one of the most baffling problems of the industry.

Detectives Flood, Ferguson and Fitzpatrick of the West Forty-seventh street station, acting on the complaint of Louis Innamorati, representing the Pathe Exchange, arrested and locked up Leopold Singer, 37, a film dealer of 41 Dawson street, Newark, and William Pizor, 33, a film broker, living at 1144 President street, Brooklyn. Singer is charged with bringing stolen property into the State of New York and Pizor is charged with receiving the property.

For some time the officials of the Pathe Exchange have been missing films, both comedies and serials, from one of its laboratories in New Jersey. They would not say just what the names of the pictures were, but they did say that they were valuable and that the actors and actresses appearing in them are well known.

An Inside Job Suspected.  
Investigators for the company believe that, like most large film thefts, the disappearance of the films was an inside job, and that at least one employee of the laboratory was in connection with some person or group of persons on the outside.

Information was obtained which led detectives to visit Pizor, who has an office on the eighth floor of the building at 739 Seventh avenue. He is said by the police to operate under the name of Capitol Productions. When the detectives reached his office late yesterday they found 169 films, or "cans" there. It is not the custom of the Pathe company to sell films. They lease them. Pizor told the detectives that he had bought the films in good faith from Singer and that Singer had brought them to him from his office in Newark. Pizor said he was willing to help the detectives. He called up Singer and asked him to come to New York. When he got off the train at the Pennsylvania station the detectives met him. They took him to Pizor's office and asked him if the labels on the "cans" were his. He admitted they were. The detectives then arrested both men.

Innamorati, representing the Pathe Exchange, identified the 169 films as part of those that were missing. Detectives today will search for the other missing films, the value of which is not known. It was said last night that two or three more arrests might be expected to-day.

All the larger film companies have found that it is difficult to trace stolen films and that after persons finally have been arrested they can be tried and sent to prison usually only for petty larceny. That is because only the intrinsic value of the films—a very few dollars each—is taken into account by the law.

The National Association of the Motion Picture Industry for three or four years has been working for the recovery of stolen films, many of which have found their way to Mexico, South America, China and Japan, and in addition have worked for the passage of a Federal law which would make convictions easier and would insure heavier penalties than now are possible.

The value of a stolen film is difficult to estimate. The film itself may not be worth more than a few dollars or a few hundred dollars, but if it is a good film copies of it may be made and be transported to some other country, and the profits of the thieves will be enormous.

In addition, the producers of the pictures will find that when they try to put their picture in some other country the field already has been covered and there is no demand.

### I. C. C. FINDS POTATO EMBARGO UNNECESSARY

Facilities to Handle Day's Produce Prove Adequate.

Clyde B. Aitchison, member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, yesterday informed the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Port Authority and Commissioner O'Malley of the Department of Markets that there was no evidence of an accumulation of potatoes in this city that would warrant the levying of an embargo. The facilities are "adequate to handle a forty-eight hour accumulation of freight in one day," Commissioner Aitchison said, "and consignors should remove their stuff from the piers within a twenty-four hour limit."

E. H. Outerbridge, chairman of the Port Authority, said: "We are naturally pleased that favorable action has been taken by the Interstate Commerce Commission's investigation against the proposed potato embargo. It was first lifted by the Pennsylvania Railroad more than two weeks ago at the request of the Port Authority, and subsequently, due to the Port Authority's action in engaging special counsel and laying the matter before the Interstate Commerce Commission, the embargo has been obviated."

## RALPH WARD WON'T TALK OF PLOT TO GRAND JURY

Continued from First Page.

stances of his talk with Ward lawyers. He was asked about the investigation of the case up to date, but not in a critical spirit. Criticism of the Westchester officials, who are conducting the Ward case has come so far from outside sources.

A report that an attempt had been made to tap the telephone wires in the White Plains Court House was not confirmed. The headquarters of the New York Telephone Company said merely that the matter was being investigated.

Elwood Hefner and Alfred E. Blute, whose names were introduced into the case Sunday, when Hefner was arrested in New Rochelle on a charge of passing a worthless check and on whom was found a letter from Walter Ward to Blute, were at White Plains ready to testify, but were not called.

Check Charge Holds Hefner.  
Hefner was brought over from New Rochelle in the custody of two police men. He is still under arrest on the check charge. Blute was subpoenaed Monday in his restaurant in Hialeah, Fla. While waiting outside the Grand Jury room he was asked what he thought of the theory that Ward may have killed Peters to evade the payment of a gambling debt. He said: "Gamblers don't welch on a gambling debt and I never knew of a case of a gambler trying to collect a debt with a gun."

The Pinkerton detectives who have been checking the movements of Clarence Peters found one of the four men who three or four days before he was killed were discharged from the Marine Corps at Paris Island, N. C.

He is Robert S. Keating of 29 Wyndham street, Woodhaven, Queens. He says that when he left Paris Island on May 12 Peters was still there. Keating said it was the custom to give each discharged man his railroad fare as far as Philadelphia. He said that he and Peters from the North are shipped to Philadelphia and must make their way home from that point.

### Ward Tale From New Orleans.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
NEW ORLEANS, June 13.—Nicholas Nucelo, butcher, told Jerry Wallace, acting captain of detectives, to-day, that a man and woman tried to hire him to go to New York to kill Walter S. Ward. Nucelo says he is out of work, was standing at Rampart and Canal streets Monday, and went to the butcher shop



GEORGE S. WARD.

of Steve Dasso, where he expressed a wish to go to New York, but said that he did not have the fare.

He says a Mexican approached and made a date with him to meet him at the "Over the Hills" restaurant at Spanish Fort, and that when he told the Mexican he was penniless the Mexican gave him \$1. Nucelo says he went to Spanish Fort, met the Mexican and the woman in an automobile.

"She said that if I went to New York and killed Ward she would pay me \$50,000," Nucelo swore to the police. "I came to New York, but the Mexican knocked me flat and when I came to all had disappeared."

## SLAIN BOY'S FATHER DETAILS KIDNAPING

Varotta Asserts Marine, on Trial, Made Demand of Ransom for Gang.

Salvatore Varotta, father of the murdered boy, Giuseppe, noticeably grayer since his appearance last summer when Roberto Raffaele, one of the five defendants, was convicted, took the stand yesterday at the trial of Antonio Marino before Judge Tailey in General Sessions.

The East Side peddler, who lives in continual fear of vengeance because he wrecked the plans of Blackhanders to obtain ransom for his five-year-old son, told of the disappearance of the boy, the demands for money and the arrest of the blackmailers.

He testified that he had misled the child on May 24, 1921. When he returned home with a newly purchased automobile and wanted to take him out for a drive. He said he spent several days and nights looking for him and found out definitively that he had been kidnapped.

The defendant, Marino, he declared, approached and told him he would find the boy if he gave him enough money. "But, I'm a poor man," Varotta testified, he replied. "I can raise only \$500."

That, Varotta said, Marino declared the gang that had the boy was "bigger," meaning \$500 would not be enough to go around. He testified that he told of talks about ransom money with others of the five under indictment—James Ruggieri, Santos Casamano and John Melchione. Varotta told of a letter he had received threatening the boy with drowning if he did not pay the ransom and of a visit by Raffaele on the night of June 1 ordering that the \$500 be ready at 10 o'clock the following night.

COLLEGE FACES MONEY LOSS OVER EVOLUTION

Discharge Teacher or Make Him Recant, Is Warning.

NASHVILLE, June 13.—Unless Prof. C. W. Davis, member of the faculty of Union University, a Baptist institution at Jackson, Tenn., is eliminated from its teaching staff, or declares publicly his repudiation of the theory of evolution, all financial or moral support of the Nashville Baptist pastors conference will be withdrawn from the institution, according to resolutions adopted by the conference yesterday.

The resolutions declared the theory of evolution dangerous and destructive and of accord with the teachings of the Bible Church.

The action of the board of trustees in the reelection of Prof. Davis after he had been tried upon charges of teaching evolution was condemned by the conference.

F. X. BENNETT'S WILL UPSET.

A jury before Surrogate Wingate, in Brooklyn, yesterday upset the will of Frank X. Bennett, former Alderman and Assemblyman in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, leaving an estate of \$150,000 to his wife, Anna Barbara Bennett, of 115 Woodbine street. The will was broken previously, in February, 1921. Bennett, who was 54, married Anna Barbara Hans, 37, on October 30, 1918. In May, 1919, they made a bequesting their individual estates to each other. Adolph Ruger, representing Bennett's seven brothers and sisters, contended that Bennett said to a lawyer at the time: "We'll go through with this humor. I'll be down to your office later and make my will."

## JUSSERAND REPLIES TO FRANCE'S CRITICS

Declares His Country Shows More Leniency Than Germany Did in 1870.

CHICAGO, June 13.—The course of France with respect to reparations, her army and her part at the arms conference were defended by Jules J. Jusserand, and the French Ambassador to the United States, in an address to-day at the commencement exercises of the University of Chicago.

"When reparations are spoken of," he said, "you will often hear people say or imply: Are not the French too exacting? Could they not show more mercy?"

"They wish they could, but how can they? It is a question of overloading the victim so as to spare the aggressor. Somebody must pay for those reparations, why should it be those on whom they were inflicted? Toward the enemy we have been more lenient than they were in 70, when the fortune of the war had been favorable to them. They made us pay for what the war had cost them; as a compensation for the immense treasure we had to spend in this war, they exacted ourselves against their unprovoked attack, we ask nothing. For the rest, their duty is to make good."

French Military Policy.

"France is a military country, you may have heard; she keeps an enormous army; why does she?" he continued. "First, she does not; her army is not an enormous one and it is steadily decreasing year by year; military service, which before the war was of three years, is now of eighteen months and will soon be, if no untoward event interferes, of one year."

Military expenses reached during the last year of the war 1913 the colossal sum of 36,000,000,000 francs; for famous as we are as a thrifty nation we came to be so when the country in 1914 its expenses were 15,000,000,000 francs, in 1920 7,500,000,000, in 1921 6,200,000,000, in 1922 4,900,000,000.

"The number of our soldiers, which had reached seven or eight million during the war, has been gradually reduced and will be more and more. It is not, as some enemies of France would like to see, a large number of troops left, colonial and native troops included."

Attitude Concerning Submarines.

"Much was also said and written about the attitude of France concerning submarines; much that was said to listen to and said to read; but which did not come either from France or from American lips or pens. We have been described as being in favor of the ruthless warfare practiced by the Germans, which is untrue, as having a passion for the submarine, an engine, it was said, of no use but for the destruction of innocent merchant ships, and so on."

STATEN ISLAND GIRL MYSTERIOUSLY SHOT

Receives Bullet in Neck—No Trace of Assassin.

Miss Louise Russo, 24, and attractive, of 215 Harbor Road, Mariners Harbor, was shot mysteriously yesterday morning in the left side of her neck while she stood on the porch of her home, she told the police. At the Staten Island Hospital, where she was taken, a 32 caliber bullet was extracted and it was said last night that she will recover.

Detective Sergeant William England was unable to discover any one who had been in the neighborhood of the house at the time of the shooting, nor could he find any footprints. The girl said she saw no one and that she had no enemies. After returning from a grocery at Richmond Terrace she paused on her right porch when attracted by something down the road and at that instant she felt a sharp pain in her neck.

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## JEWES GIVE \$125,000 AT DINNER TO LODGE

Name Fund After Senator. Exceeding City's Quota of \$3,000,000.

Just before Henry Cabot Lodge spoke at the dinner given in his honor last night by the Keren Haywood to celebrate the unanimous adoption by the United States Senate of the Lodge resolution supporting the Palestine movement, Magistrate Alexander Gellman of Brooklyn called upon the thousand participants to make up then and there the \$100,000 deficit in the New York city quota of \$3,000,000 which is to be devoted to the establishment of the national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.

Samuel Untermyer, toastmaster, started it with \$10,000. An East Side organization gave \$1,000. Nathan Straus offered \$5,000. Jersey City produced \$10,000. Seven thousand dollars came from the Mount Vernon contingent, and with remarkable rapidity checks descended upon the lodge until he had more than \$125,000.

Then, to the huge enthusiasm of the crowd, he announced that this sum would be known as the Henry Cabot Lodge Honor Fund.

The Senator spoke of the Palestine movement, the reclamation of the Holy Land by Gen. Allenby, the British protectorate established over it and of religious and racial tolerance. In part he said:

"It seemed to me that it was entirely becoming and commendable that the Jewish people in all portions of the world should desire to have a national home for such members of their race as wished to return to the country which was the cradle of their race and where they lived and labored for several thousand years running back to days just apparent in the dim dawn of recorded history. What could be more praiseworthy or more appealing than such a desire? Why should it not be gratified? Surely the days of religious intolerance have gone by among all the most highly civilized nations of the western world. Religious freedom is one of the cornerstones of the constitutional government of the United States."

"Protection will, of course, be afforded by Great Britain, a great Christian nation, thoroughly devoted to the principles of religious freedom of Christians and Jews alike, to whom the land is sacred, will be guarded as never before. The President of the United States has also recently given public utterance to the cordial sympathy which he feels for the wishes of the Jewish people to live in Palestine as a national home. But strongly as I believe in religious freedom and religious tolerance I never could accept in patience the thought that Jerusalem and Palestine should be under the control of the Mohammedans, as they have been since 1244 with only a brief interval."

The other speakers were Nathan Straus and Nahum Sokolow. The latter, who has been touring America at the head of a number of European leaders in the Palestine movement, delivered the thanks of his associates to Senator Lodge, and by way of closing drew the crowd to its feet by shouting "Long live Senator Lodge!"

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